

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

**CYNTHIA BRATTESANI,  
DDS '89****Hometown:** San Francisco, Calif.**Now:** San Francisco, Calif.**Position:** Owner, Cynthia Brattesani, DDS**Hobbies:** Travel, reading nonfiction, learning new languages

Cynthia Brattesani was elected speaker by her UCSF graduating class and won the Dean's Citation Award from then-Dentistry Dean John Greene, DMD, MPH. She's been nationally recognized as one of the Top 25 Women in Dentistry (*Dental Products Report*, 2014) and as an Outstanding New Dentist Leader (*American Dental Association*, 1996), to name just some of her honors.

But when she learned of her UCSF Alumni Excellence Award, she got downright teary. "I'm so proud to tell my patients that I'm a UCSF grad," she says.

**WHAT ABOUT ME?:** Brattesani's brother grew up wanting to be a dentist, and when they were kids, he told her she could be his assistant. That was what most dental practices looked like in the early '70s, but before long, she decided she'd be a dentist, too.

"I had my eye on UCSF as far back as I can remember," Brattesani says. "I wanted to be a part of that big, important place."

**LONGING TO BELONG:** Being an active part of her family, her city, her school, and her profession is a big motivator for Brattesani. She was born and raised in San Francisco by Italian parents, both of whom were brought to California as children by parents looking for a better life. With fluency in Italian and dual citizenship, Brattesani travels to Tuscany every summer to visit family, friends, and the Italian culture she loves.

"My parents instilled in me a strong work ethic," she says. A high-energy individual who maintains a bustling private practice on Union Street, she juggles patients, professional conferences, seminars, lectures, and leadership activities with family life, including her Italian-born husband and 17-year-old son.

**CORE VALUES:** Reminiscing about her UCSF education, Brattesani remembers the day one of her teachers said, "It's your *profession* now," and that really stuck. She got involved in association activities while still in

school and at age 33 was elected president of the San Francisco Dental Society. She continues to be active with the California and American Dental Associations.

She believes that dentists treat patients, not teeth, and is an early adopter of new technologies – like CAD/CAM, digital X-rays,

fluorescence, and 3-D imaging – anything that can reduce radiation exposure, optimize the patient experience, and increase quality of care.

"I'm passionate about never wanting my business or my profession to stagnate," she says. "I want to make it the best it can be."

## UCSF ALUMNI IN ACTION

**Of students in the School of Dentistry Class of 2018, 60 percent are under-represented minorities.**

Nelson Artiga-Diaz, DDS '75, MPH, UCSF health sciences clinical professor emeritus, played a key role in building the school's externship program, which still provides low-cost treatment to thousands of underserved patients in community clinics throughout Northern California.